REMARKS

Regarding the rejection of claims 50-69 under 35 U.S.C. §112, independent claims 50 and 60 have been amended to delete the words "said image sensing means". It is submitted that this overcomes the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112.

Regarding the rejection of claims 1-5, 7, 9, 12, 14-18, 20, 22, 25, 27-31, 33, 35, 38, 40-43, 45, 48, 50-53, 55, 58, 60-63, 65 and 68 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Nagano (U.S. Patent No. 4,642,679), it will be noted that each of applicants' independent claims 1, 14, 27, 40, 50 and 60 have been amended to specify that a predetermined light source is turned on and off a plurality of times during a period in which no sensing operation is performed by the image sensing means.

This claimed operation of turning a predetermined light source on and off a plurality of times during intervals when no image is being sensed is illustrated in the timing charts of Figs. 14-16, 21, 23, 24,29 and 30 of applicants' drawings; and it is described in the specification at page 23, lines 2-24, page 28, line 13 to page 29, line 21 and page 33, lines 5-23.

Applicants have discovered that by turning at least one of the plural light sources on and off a plurality of times during intervals when no image is being sensed, it is possible to achieve more efficient light stabilization without complicated mechanisms or circuits.

The cited reference to Nagano (U.S. Patent No. 4,642,679) fails to disclose applicants' claimed turning on and off of a predetermined light source a plurality of times during non-sensing intervals. Nagano instead turns the G-lamp off once before a sensing period in order that what is sensed is only the afterglow of the G-lamp. There is no disclosure and no suggestion in Nagano

of turning a particular lamp on and off a plurality of times during non-sensing intervals. Because of this it is submitted that applicants' independent claims 1, 14, 27, 40 50 and 60 patentably distinguish over Nagano.

The other references of record, namely Lim et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,532,825), Tani et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,877,487) and Takahashi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,654,756), also fail to disclose the idea of turning a predetermined lamp on and off a plurality of times during non-sensing intervals. Thus no combination of these patents with each other or with Nagano can anticipate applicants' invention as now claimed. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks it is submitted that each of independent claims 1, 14, 27, 50 and 60 patentably distinguish over the references, considered both individually and in combination, and that these claims are allowable.

Dependent claims 2-13, 15-26, 28-39, 41-49, 51-59 and 61-69 are each dependent, either directly or indirectly, on one of independent claims 1, 14, 27, 40, 50 and 60 and patentably distinguish over Nagano for the reasons given above. In addition, the specific structures and methods defined by these dependent claims provide additional advantages, as can be appreciated from the specification, as well as additional novelty; and for these reasons also, claims 2-13, 15-26, 28-39, 41-49, 51-59 and 61-69 are allowable.

It is submitted that in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is now in condition for allowance. Further consideration by the Examiner and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES TO CLAIMS

1. (amended) An image sensing apparatus comprising:

a plurality of light sources for emitting light with different wavelengths;

image sensing means for sensing an image illuminated by said light sources and outputting an image signal; and

light source controlling means for controlling said plurality of light sources so that a predetermined light source of said plurality of light sources is turned on a plurality of times and is turned off a plurality of times during a period in which no image sensing operation is performed by said image sensing means.

14. (amended) A method of sensing an image, comprising the steps of: illuminating an image by a plurality of light sources which emit light with different wavelengths thereby sensing said image; and turning on and turning off a predetermined light source of said plurality of light sources a plurality of times during a period in which no sensing operation is performed.

27. (amended) A control memory in which is stored a program for controlling an image sensing apparatus to perform the steps of: illuminating an image by a plurality of light sources which emit light with different wavelengths thereby sensing said image; and turning on and turning off a predetermined light source of said plurality of light sources a plurality of times during a period in which no sensing operation is performed.

40. (amended) An image sensing apparatus comprising:

a plurality of light sources for emitting light with different wavelengths;

image sensing means for sensing an image illuminated by said light sources and outputting an image signal; and

light source controlling means for controlling said plurality of light sources so that a predetermined light source of said plurality of light sources is turned on and another light source of said plurality of light sources is turned off a plurality of times during a period in which no image sensing operation is performed by said sensing means.

50. (amended) An image sensing method comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of light sources for emitting light with different wavelengths;

sensing an image illuminated by said light sources and outputting an image signal; and

controlling said plurality of light sources so that a predetermined light source of said plurality of light sources is turned on and another light source of said plurality of light sources is turned off a plurality of times during a period in which no sensing operation is performed[by said image sensing means].

60. (amended) A control memory in which is stored a program for carrying out an image sensing operation comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of light sources for emitting light with different wavelengths;

sensing an image illuminated by said light sources and outputting an image signal; and

controlling said plurality of light sources so that a predetermined light source of said plurality of light sources is turned on and another light source of said plurality of light sources is turned off a plurality of times during a period in which no image sensing operation is performed[by said image sensing means].